
Office of Public Instruction



School Nutrition Programs



The OPI School Nutrition Programs unit administers seven U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Child Nutrition Programs and a state Cooperative Food Purchasing Program.

- 🍏 ***National School Lunch Program*** provides more than 75,000 nutritious lunches daily and the opportunity to practice skills learned in classroom nutrition education in 807 Montana schools. The National School Lunch Program also offers programs that provide afterschool snacks and commodity foods.
 - ***Afterschool Snack Program*** helps 110 schools in Montana serve snacks to 1,585 children in after school activities aimed at promoting the health and well being of children and youth in our communities. A school must provide children with regularly scheduled activities in an organized, structured and supervised environment that includes educational or enrichment activities.
 - ***Food Distribution Program*** coordinates the distribution of USDA purchased commodity foods to schools that provide lunches to students. The state entitlement of more than \$2 million is dispersed to schools on a fair share basis. Schools may use nearly \$150,000 of the entitlement to purchase fresh produce through the *Department of Defense Fruit and Vegetable Program*.
- 🍏 ***School Breakfast Program*** provides 18,735 nutritious breakfasts daily in 612 Montana schools to promote learning readiness and healthy eating behaviors.
- 🍏 ***Special Milk Program*** offers milk to 1,150 children in 52 Montana schools who do not have access to other meal programs.
- 🍏 ***Summer Food Service Program*** helps 10,203 Montana children at 153 sites throughout the state get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow throughout the summer months when they are out of school.
- 🍏 ***Team Nutrition Program*** provides schools with nutrition education materials for children and families; technical assistance materials for school food service directors, managers, and staff; and materials to build school and community support for healthy eating and physical activity.
- 🍏 ***Cooperative Purchase Program*** allows small schools to take advantage of 25-40 percent cost savings through bulk purchasing of high-quality nutritious foods to 75 percent of Montana schools that provide school meals.

